

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the claims

1. (Withdrawn): A space-occupying device comprising:

a space-occupying element comprising a device volume, and wherein the device volume is maintained in a substantially cylindrical configuration by a binding agent, and wherein the flexibility of the device volume is increased when the binding agent is exposed to a softening agent.
2. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 1, wherein the device volume comprises a flexible segment.
3. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 1, wherein the device volume comprises a helical segment.
4. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 1, wherein the device volume comprises a woven segment.
5. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 1, wherein the binding agent comprises a gel.

6. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 5, wherein the gel comprises a hydrogel.
7. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 5, wherein the gel comprises a gelatin.
8. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 1, wherein the binding agent comprises agar.
9. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 1, wherein the binding agent comprises a sugar.
10. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 1, wherein the binding agent comprises collagen.
11. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 10, wherein the binding agent comprises a collagen matrix
12. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 1, wherein the binding agent comprises a radial constraining device.
13. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 1, wherein the binding agent comprises a net.
14. (Withdrawn): A device for filling an abnormal void within the body comprising:

a first space-occupying piece;

a second space-occupying piece, wherein the first space-occupying piece is flexibly attached to the second space-occupying piece; and

a binding agent attached to the first space-occupying piece and the second space-occupying piece, wherein the binding agent increases the column strength of the attachment of the first space-occupying piece and the second space-occupying piece, and wherein the flexibility of the attachment of the first space-occupying piece and the second space-occupying piece is increased when the binding agent is exposed to a softening agent.

15. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 14, wherein the first space-occupying piece comprises a first segment of a flexible leader,

16. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 15, wherein the second space-occupying piece comprises a second segment of the flexible leader.

17. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 14, further comprising a flexible leader, wherein the first space-occupying piece is connected to the leader at a first length along the leader, and wherein the second space-occupying piece is connected to the leader at a second length along the leader.

18. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 17, wherein the leader comprises a first end integrated with the first space-occupying piece.
19. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 18, wherein the leader comprises a second end integrated with the second space-occupying piece.
20. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 17, wherein the leader comprises a first end attached to the first space-occupying piece to impede removal of the first space-occupying piece from the leader.
21. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 20, wherein the leader comprises a knot to impede removal of the first space-occupying piece from the leader.
22. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 14, wherein the first space-occupying piece comprises a first non-expandable space-occupying element
23. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 15, wherein the second space-occupying piece comprises a second non-expandable space-occupying element.

24. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 14, wherein the first space-occupying piece comprises collagen.
25. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 24, wherein the second space-occupying piece comprises collagen.
26. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 14, further comprising a coating on the device.
27. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 26, wherein the coating comprises a therapeutic agent and/or a diagnostic agent.
28. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 26, wherein the coating comprises a thrombogenic material.
29. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 26, wherein the coating comprises a collagen matrix.
30. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 14, wherein the first space-occupying piece is woven with the second space-occupying piece.

31. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 14, wherein the first space-occupying piece comprises a first fiber.
32. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 31, wherein the second space-occupying piece comprises a second fiber.
33. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 31, wherein the first fiber comprises polyester.
34. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 14, wherein the first space-occupying piece is discrete from the second space-occupying piece.
35. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 14, wherein the first space-occupying piece is integrated with the second space-occupying piece.
36. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 14, wherein the first space-occupying piece is helical.
37. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 14, wherein the binding agent comprises a gel.
38. (Withdrawn): The device of Claim 37, wherein the gel comprises a hydrogel.

39. (Currently amended): A method for filling an abnormal void within the body, the method comprising:

placing in a void within the body a catheter having a distal exit, the distal exit placed at a treatment site;

passing a first space-occupying element of a space-occupying device through the catheter and distal exit, the space-occupying device comprising a device volume and a binding agent, wherein the binding agent reduces the flexibility of the space-occupying device; and

passing a second space-occupying element of the space-occupying device through the catheter and distal exit, wherein the first space-occupying element is attached to the second space-occupying element; and

deploying the device into the treatment site.

40. (Original): The method of Claim 39, wherein the flexibility of the space-occupying device increases when the binding agent is exposed to a softening agent.

41. (Original): The method of Claim 39, wherein deploying comprises exposing the device to a softening agent.

42. (New): A method for filling an abnormal void within the body, the method comprising:

coating a space-occupying device with a binding agent, wherein the binding agent is configured to reduce the flexibility of the space-occupying device,

inserting a first space-occupying element of the space-occupying device into the abnormal void,

inserting a second space-occupying element of the space-occupying device into the abnormal void, wherein the first space-occupying element is rotatably attached to the second space- occupying element.

43. (New): The method of Claim 42, wherein the flexibility of the space-occupying device increases when the binding agent is exposed to a softening agent.

44. (New): The method of Claim 42, wherein inserting a first space-occupying element comprises exposing the device to a softening agent.